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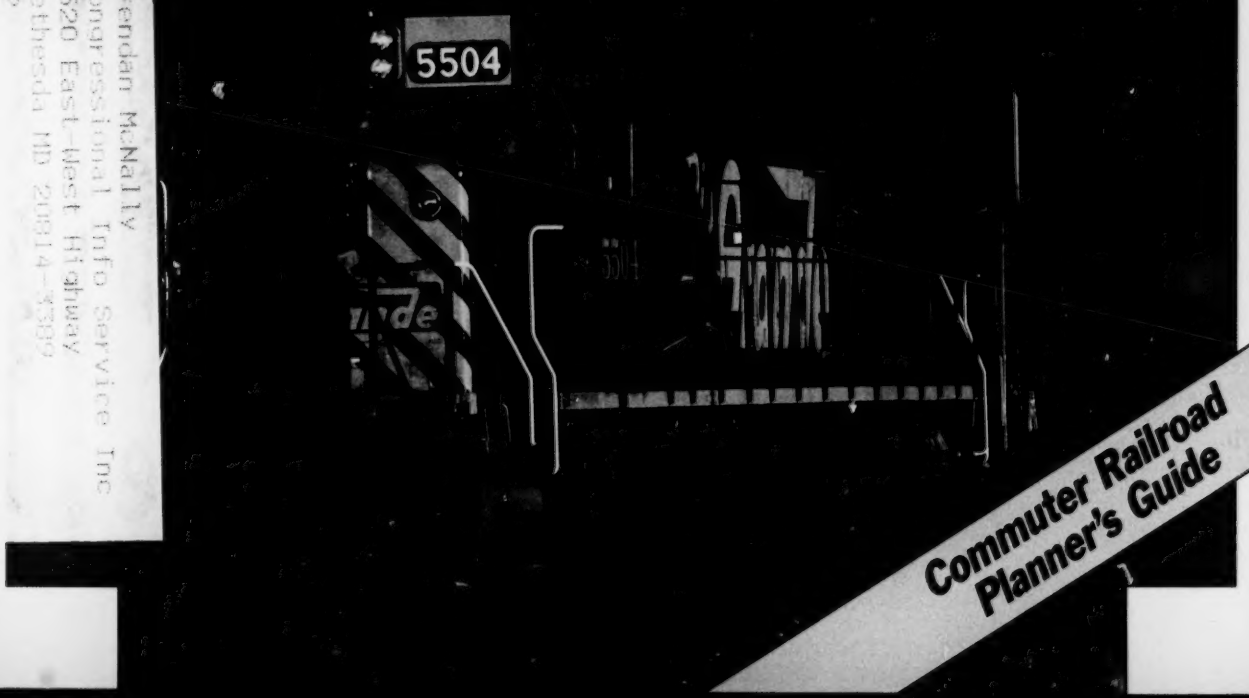
October 1988

Railway Age

...for the new age of railways and rail transit

SP and D&RGW: A good fit

Brendan McNally
Congressional Info Service Inc
4520 East-West Highway
Bethesda MD 20814-4389



Commuter Railroad Planner's Guide

October 1988

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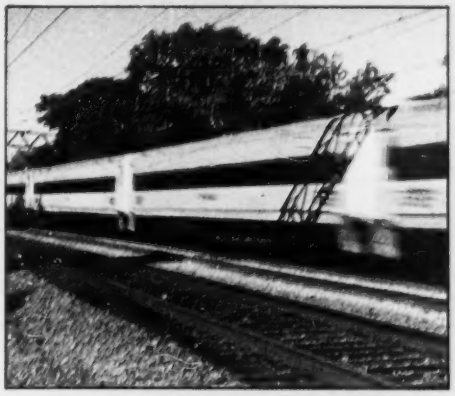
Features

COMMUTER RAILROAD PLANNER'S GUIDE

"All aboard, America!" CG3
In their 150th year of operation, commuter railroads are staging a comeback as old systems spruce up and new ones emerge.

Who's who in commuter rail ...CG16
Need assistance in planning, designing, equipping or operating a commuter line? Here's a guide to companies that can help.



Metro-North photo on p. CG1 by Kent Patterson

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Sale of SP to Rio Grande Industries will produce a railroad better able to compete against UP and BN—and, ironically, against Santa Fe, the other half of seller SFSP.

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Market Outlook

Equipment

CSX Equipment: Will rebuild 16,000 freight cars in 1989, at a cost of approximately $300-million.

CSX Rail Transport: Is acquiring 50 new locomotives—40 4,000 hp Dash 8-40Cs from General Electric Co. and 10 3,800 hp SD60s from the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors.

Itel Rail Corp.: Placed a $13-million order with Thrall Car for 300 73-foot-long, center-beam flatcars for hauling lumber. They will be equipped with end-of-car cushioning and a new tie-down system designed for safer handling. Deliveries are to be completed in October.

Long Island: Will acquire 10 prototype double-deck commuter cars from Tokyu Car of Japan at a cost of $22.4 million (*RA*, April, p. 55).

Pullman Leasing: Ordered 300 general purpose tank cars from Union Tank Car for delivery during the first quarter of 1989. The order includes 20,500 and 23,500 gallon exterior coiled and insulated tank cars and 30,000 gallon non-coiled, non-insulated cars.

- Purchased 95 20,000-gallon coiled and insulated tank cars from Union Carbide Corp. Following complete reconditioning, the general purpose tanks will become available for lease.
- Purchased Union Tank Car's entire grain-type covered hopper fleet, a total of 2,536 cars. This brings Pullman Leasing's total fleet size to approximately 33,000 cars, representing an investment of almost $900 million.

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority: Harmon Industries signed a $2-million contract with New York Railcar for the supply of Harmon ULTRACAB 100 cab signal and automatic train control equipment to be installed on 217 SEPTA cars and/or car pairs.

Facilities

Chicago Transit Authority: General Railway Signal is the apparent low bidder, at $14.4 million, for installation of an interlocking system on CTA's North/South Route.

Conrail: Will invest $2.3 million to upgrade sections of its Mon Line, linking Pittsburgh with Monongahela, Penn.

CSX Transportation: Will begin a $10.3 million improvement program at its Jessup, Md. automotive distribution center. Improvements will include increasing railcar spots to 75, vehicle bays to 6,400, and truck docks to 75.

Norfolk Southern: Will lay around 600 miles of cwr and install approximately 1.8 million crossties this year and has a similar program in mind for 1989. These levels of activity are lower than those of recent years, notes Edward R. Burwell, executive vice president-operations, because "we've caught up with any deferred maintenance we had, plus we're spinning off some lines that eat up a lot of rail and crossties."

PATH: Awarded a $49.6-million construction contract for a 207,000-square-foot car shop at Harrison, N.J., the last major contract for the $205-million maintenance and repair facility. The contract went to the low bidders, a joint venture of Joseph L. Muscarelle, Inc., of Maywood, N.J., and Gemini Construction Corp. of Newark.

Revenue freight carloadings

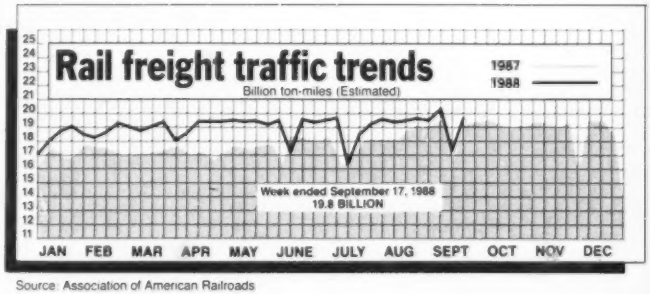
Commodity	Sept. 17 week	Sept. 10 week	Sept. 3 week	Aug. 27 week	Aug. 20 week
Grain	31,264	23,867	25,957	25,230	27,926
Other farm products	3,320	2,375	2,319	2,251	2,379
Metallic ores	20,895	18,481	20,791	17,397	21,490
Coal	128,302	120,327	134,865	132,743	132,708
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,545	15,612	19,200	19,520	19,387
Nonmetallic minerals	10,816	9,526	11,106	11,206	11,078
Grain mill products	11,112	9,634	11,731	10,973	10,095
Food and kindred products	10,919	9,277	11,209	11,196	11,185
Primary forest products	10,171	8,440	10,285	9,871	9,750
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,366	5,666	7,307	7,333	7,037
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,182	11,970	12,687	12,247	11,913
Chemicals and allied products	28,106	24,798	28,297	27,720	28,309
Petroleum products	5,276	4,545	5,230	5,463	5,702
Stone, clay and glass products	11,416	10,154	11,527	11,144	11,430
Coke	5,676	5,568	5,877	5,782	5,988
Metals and products	10,368	8,980	11,071	10,727	10,075
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,470	16,874	19,470	19,227	18,559
Waste and scrap materials	9,993	7,871	10,230	9,856	9,756
Forwarder and shipper assn. traffic	2,379	1,986	2,586	2,343	2,349
All other carloads	88,301	74,582	88,233	86,622	85,053
Total Cars Loaded	**448,877**	**390,533**	**449,978**	**438,851**	**442,169**
% change from previous year	1.2	1.9	2.1	1.5	3.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions)	19.8	17.2	20.3	19.7	19.9
% change from previous year	1.5	4.6	2.6	1.8	3.5

Total:	1988	1987	% change
37 weeks	707.8	659.7	7.3

Piggyback loadings

	Sept. 10 week	Sept. 3 week	Aug. 27 week	Aug. 20 week	Aug. 13 week
Trailers/containers	97,123	119,054	116,742	115,862	112,959

Cumulative total, 36 weeks		% change from 1987
Trailers/containers	3,928,300	5.6


Rail freight traffic trends
Billion ton-miles (Estimated)
1987
1988
Week ended September 17, 1988
19.8 BILLION
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

Source: Association of American Railroads